



---

# Capacity Development Achievement Awards

---

## Background

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has developed a new program to recognize public water supply systems that demonstrate excellence in achieving and maintaining technical, financial and managerial capabilities. The first annual Capacity Development Achievement Awards were presented to seven public water supply systems in the Fall of 2007. This annual awards program is designed to encourage public water supply systems to go beyond mere compliance with the Safe Drinking Act. The Program is part of the State Capacity Development Strategy for Existing Systems and is funded from the EPA drinking water revolving loan fund set-aside authorized under Section 1452(g) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Addition of the Awards Program to the Capacity Development Strategy provides a comprehensive approach for KDHE's drinking water program that includes technical assistance, regulation and recognition.

## Achievement Awards Program Basics

- ❖ Annual awards are based upon system size to prevent competition between small and large systems.
  - Up to 5 awards per year for systems serving a population of 500 or less
  - Up to 5 awards per year for systems serving a population between 501 and 3,300
  - 1 award per year for systems serving a population between 3,301 and 10,000
  - 1 award per year for systems serving a population of 10,001 or more
  - 1 award per year for a public wholesale water supply district
  
- ❖ Eligibility is based upon the following criteria
  - A score of 19 points or less on the most recent Capacity Development Survey
  - No compliance violations in the past 3 years
  - Certified operator in continuous responsible charge during the past 3 years
  - At least 50% of the system's governing body must have successfully completed KDHE's KanCap Education Program (systems serving more than 10,001 are exempt from this requirement, requirement waived for the first 3 years for all categories)
  - Have a rate review completed within the last 3 years
  - Correct any deficiencies identified during the most recent sanitary survey
  - Address drought vulnerability (if applicable)
  - Water right or water purchase contract in good standing
  - Annual unaccounted water loss under 15%
  - Must have the following management policies and plans
    - Personnel Policy
    - Customer Service/Communication Policy
    - Cross-connection/Backflow Prevention Plan
    - KDHE approved Emergency Water Supply Plan
    - Operations and Maintenance Plan
    - A minimum 5 year Capitol Improvement Plan with funding
    - Approved Water Conservation Plan

---

❖ Nomination Process

- Between April 1 and April 30 each year, KDHE Topeka Office solicits nominations
- KDHE Topeka Office distributes list of eligible systems (based on Capacity Survey Scores) to:
  - KDHE District Staff
  - Technical Assistance Providers
  - Other State agencies

❖ Selection Process

- Award recipients are selected by Topeka Office staff
  - Public Water Supply Section, Technical Services Section and Watershed Management Section
  - Selection Committee reviews each nominee for compliance with awards criteria
- Final approval
  - Public Water Supply Section Chief
  - Bureau of Water Director
- Final selection is completed by May 31 each year
  - Notification sent to award recipients June of each year
- Announcement of award winners
  - Statewide press release
  - Operator Newsletter
  - Technical Assistance Providers
- Plaque presented at board and council meetings during August and September each year